



P R E S S R E L E A S E

MACHINE RELIABILITY AND ENGINEERING SUPPORT SECURE CLEANING MACHINE SALE

High quality powder coating and wet paint specialist, Oxford Industrial Finishers (OIF), has installed a front loading, triple-tank AC1.7-3 degreasing and phosphating machine from Turbex to replace an ageing aqueous cleaning machine.

The subcontract finishing business, which operates from the Oakfield Industrial Estate in Eynsham near Oxford, was set up in 1986 and was purchased by current owner and managing director, Monty Knezevic in 2002.

Metal fabricators and manufacturers of cryogenic, scientific, medical, automotive and brewery equipment make up most of OIF's customer base.

All types of metal sheet, welded fabrications and castings as well as plastics and even MDF are processed to BS EN ISO9001:2000 quality certification in batches ranging from one-offs to large production runs.

Subject to size and customer requirements, all metalwork requiring removal of grease, oils and dust as well as a zirconium based pre-

treatment are put through the Turbex automatic spray wash machine prior to painting. The coating provides corrosion resistance in its own right and also provides an excellent key for the paint.

Mr Knezevic commented, "We are a relatively small firm with five employees, none of whom is an engineer.

"We only run one cleaning machine so its reliability is essential. If it were to stop, our business would virtually grind to a halt.

"We hand-clean parts larger than the cleaning machine's chamber, so that work could continue, but it is a limited proportion of our throughput. It would not be economically feasible to clean smaller parts that way.

"So we rely absolutely on the reliability of the cleaning machine and on the supplier's after sales service, which were the main reasons for choosing Turbex, along with the machine's quality stainless steel construction."

Following successful trials at the supplier's showroom and technical centre in Alton, the machine was delivered to Eynsham in May 2013. Originally, one of the three tanks was dedicated to applying an iron phosphate coating to components. However, as OIF was close to Thames Water's effluent limit, the phosphate was changed to a combined detergent and zirconium-based pre-treatment solution, ideal for degreasing and treating steels and aluminium as well as zinc-coated products.

The Turbex machine completes the cleaning process automatically and can be programmed to execute different cycles to suit diverse jobs, although at the Eynsham facility one program is currently sufficient.

It starts with upper and lower spray arms in the sealed process chamber rotating around the load for 90 seconds to clean and treat the items with a Trimite solution maintained at 70°C. A one-minute plain water rinse at ambient temperature follows, after which a final hot water rinse at 70°C for a further minute completes the cycle. Overall, including outflow times to evacuate the chamber after each stage, the entire program takes 6.5 minutes.

The automatic lift door opens and the parts are removed. They are ready for paint or powder coating after they have cooled, although if this is not done immediately, it is not a problem as the component surfaces are already protected by the zirconium pretreatment.

To minimise delay between the end of the cycle and loading of the next batch for cleaning, there is a shuttle arrangement at the front of the AC1.7-3 comprising two rail-mounted carriages, each carrying a table. While one load is being processed, components are set up on the other table, which is ready to be pushed by the operator into the chamber as soon as the clean load exits the machine.

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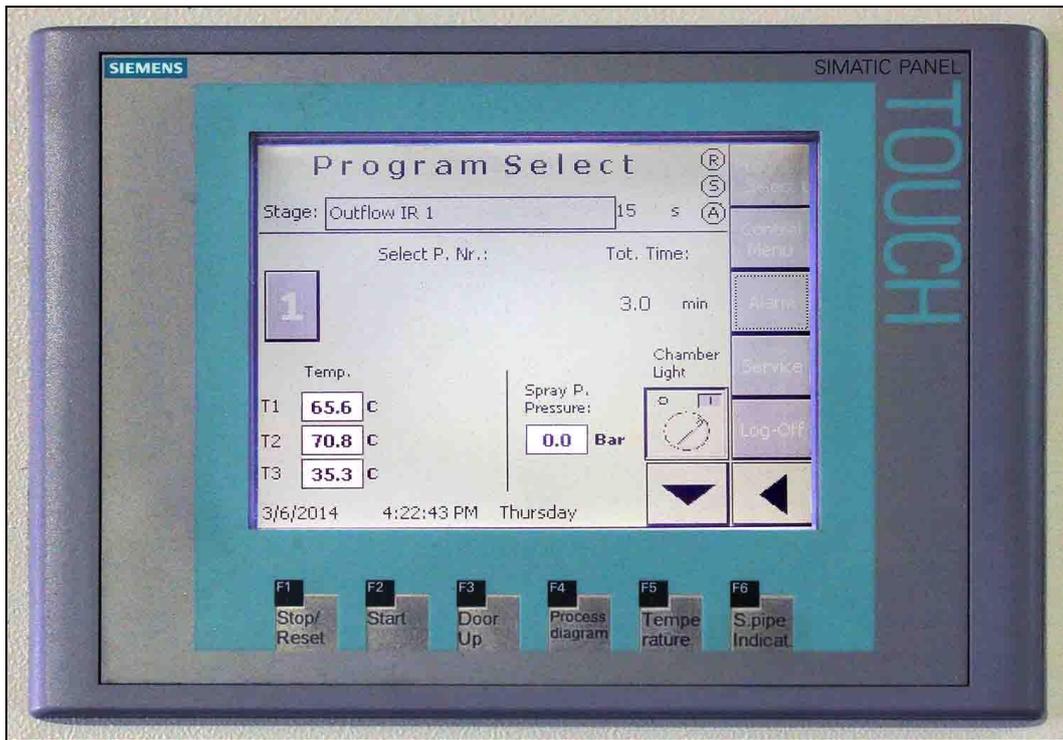
- 1/2. Batches of wing mirrors for a British classic car being prepared by Mr Knezevic for cleaning and pretreatment in the Turbex AC-1.7-3 at Oxford Industrial Finishers, Eynsham.



3. One table loaded with wing mirrors being pushed into the Turbex machine.



4. While one load is being processed, another is prepared so that it can be immediately loaded into the chamber after the previous load has been removed.



5. The control panel of the Turbex AC-1.7-3.

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